

November 2011 Weather Summary

November blew through with below normal temperatures, below normal precipitation, and record setting high winds. The month kicked off with windy conditions and blizzard warnings across the Kenai Peninsula. The following week strong winds affected much of the region. Several of the weather stations located within Southwest Alaska national parks recorded maximum wind speeds that exceeded 98% of wind speed observations recorded over a three year base period. On November 16th, the strongest wind gust ever recorded in Kenai Fjords, an impressive 129.3 mph, was recorded at the Pedersen Lagoon weather station located in Aialik Bay. That same day the Seward airport recorded a gust of 66 mph.

As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 2.91 inches (39% of normal), 4.4 inches below the average monthly rainfall. The monthly average temperature was 23.5 degrees F; this is a significant departure from normal as it is 7.4 degrees F below the 30- year average (1981-2010) for this month. November 4th was the warmest day of the month with a high of 43 degrees F; November 6th was the coldest day with a low of 6 degrees F. November 16th was the windiest day at the Seward airport with an average wind speed of 33.3 mph and wind gusts up to 66 mph.

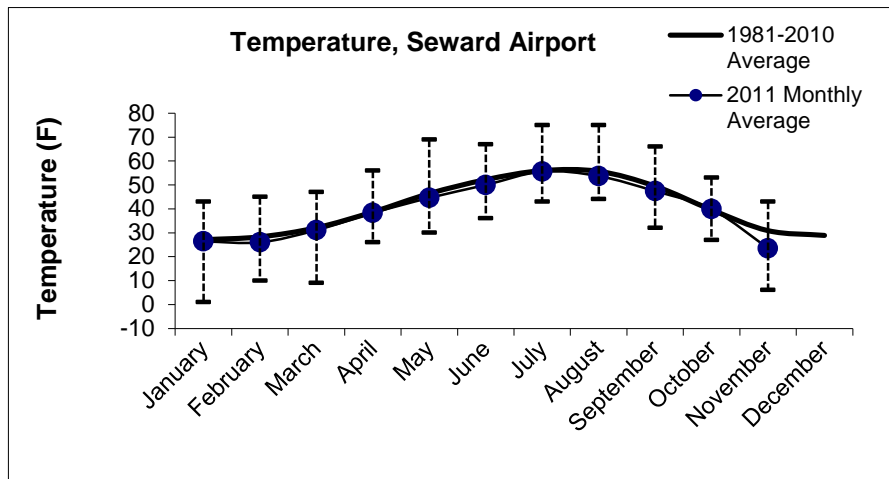
Also of note:

- A rare storm hit northwestern Alaska on November 8th and 9th bringing hurricane-force winds, high seas, coastal flooding and heavy snow. To read more about this storm and the following image, visit [NASA's Earth Observatory](#).



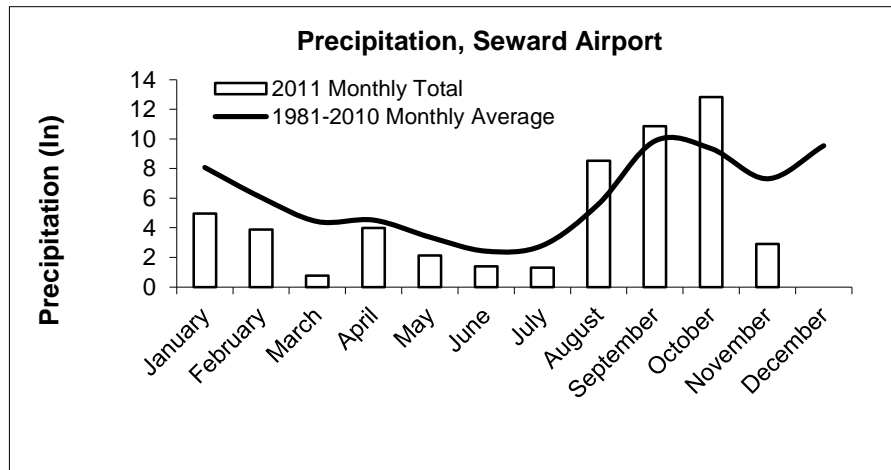
- Scientists have documented a huge shift in tree species across the western United States and Canada, noting that once-common tree species are being replaced by species that can survive in warmer and drier conditions. Read more in [Ecological Modelling](#) and [Remote Sensing of the Environment](#)
- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) one month weather outlook (December 2011) favors below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area. The three month outlook (Dec-Jan-Feb) predicts below normal temperatures and normal precipitation.
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine [ClimateWatch](#)
- Additional, detailed climate information is available from the UAF Alaska Climate Research Center monthly state-wide summaries http://akclimate.org/Summary/current_sum.html

Read more to find out about the local climate for November 2011



Monthly and 30-year (1981-2010) average temperature (F) at Seward airport. Monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

Seward Airport Precipitation, November 2011



Monthly and 30-year (1981-2010) average precipitation (inches) at Seward. Low precipitation in November resulted in a statistically significant departure from normal based on the 1981-2010 30-year average.

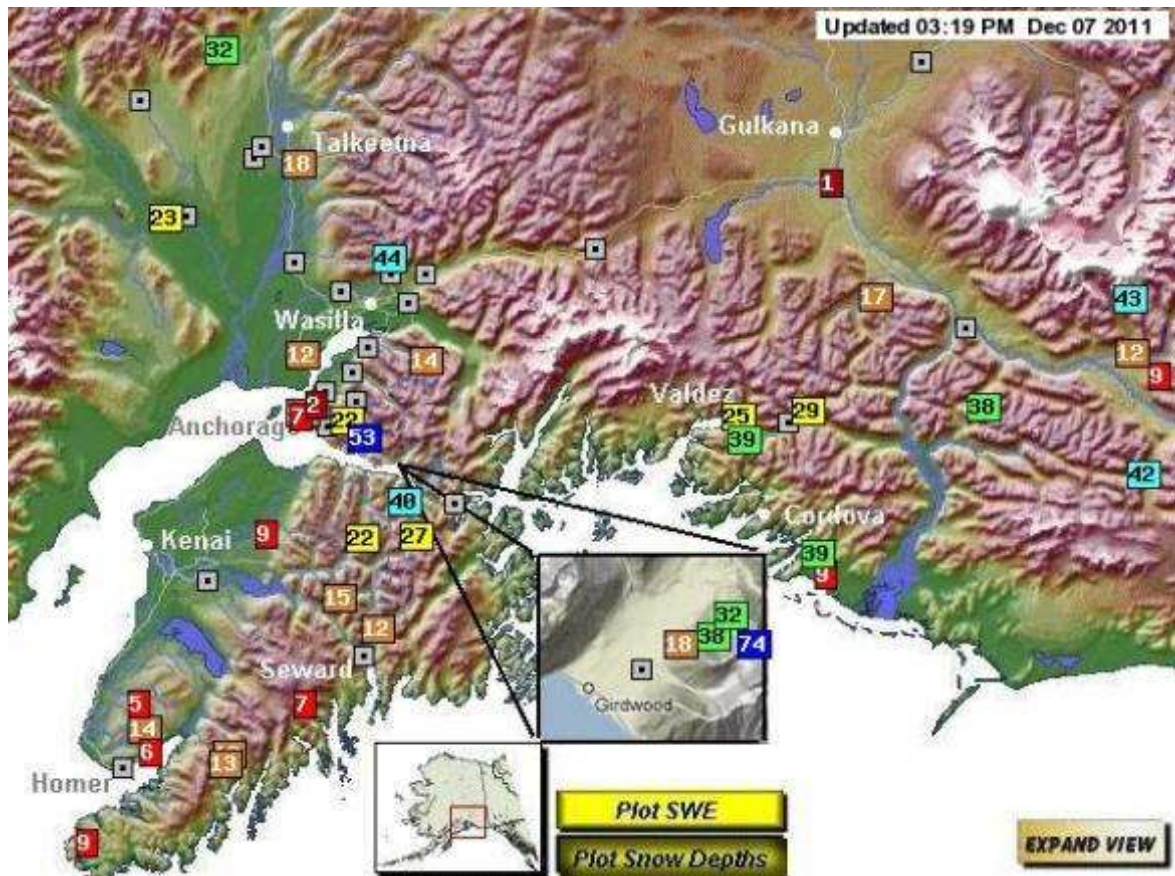
Rivers

Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pfaf>. Resurrection River stage height is currently well below the flood action stage.

Exit Creek water level (stage height) data is not collected in winter.

Snow & Ice



Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on Dec. 7: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/sd_pafc_sites.html. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambcs.org/> with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Snow depth at Exit Glacier on December 1st was 17 inches with a water equivalent of 4.0 inches. This is 5 inches less snowpack and .5 inches less water equivalent than the same date last year.

Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)
[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
[Grouse Crk Divide](#)
[Exit Glacier](#)
[Exit Glacier SNOTEL](#)
[Harding Icefield](#)
[McArthur Pass](#)
[Nuka Glacier](#)
[Pilot Rock](#)
[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)
[Marine Forecast](#)
[Surface Map](#)
[Graphical Forecast](#)
[4-8 Day Forecast](#)